

THE RECLUSE

By MARY WINIFRED FORD.

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"Jack, will you ever come out of your shell?" asked Guy Tremont laughing.

"Well, it just depends—"

"Always the same old reply, 'it just depends.' Have a heart, old man." And Guy made a dash for the door of the restaurant leading to the street, entirely out of patience with Jack Hamilton, who for a year or more had taken it upon himself to play the part of a recluse, refusing all invitations to affairs tendered him by either sex, but instead of making enemies by so doing, he won them over to a certain degree—not to his way of thinking, but they were still his friends, even though he did refuse their many invitations. It must have been the way Jack smiled when he declined, for Jack did have a beautiful way of declining; that is, he smiled so charmingly and looked so innocent that—well, as his friends would say: "Well, it's almost impossible to get angry with Jack, but he does try our patience."

As Guy Tremont was entering his home he almost collided with his younger sister, Virginia.

"Guy Tremont, you must be in love to actually look at me and then run right into me," and Virginia's merry laugh echoed through the house.

"Sis, I am sorry, but if I appear grumpy today, have pity on me and don't scold," and Guy walked into the pretty little sitting room, and made a brave attempt to interest himself in a magazine, and as Virginia looked at the magazine Guy held in his hands, she turned away and smiled.

"Well, of all things—Jack has something on his mind when he will take up a ladies' magazine and hasn't discovered yet what he is reading," she thought.

"You are a great little pal, Virginia, and I am going to tell you, dear, I am not in love, but it is Jack Hamilton—"

"Why, who is Jack Hamilton, Guy—you mentioned him in several of your letters, but you never explained just who and what he was."

"To begin with, he is a giant with a smile that provokes a fellow, and he is the fellow I met out West in 1915. Well, he came on here about two years ago. He didn't come to this town directly. While in New York he met a young lady, whom he thought he loved, and who later told him very nicely that she didn't care for his company any longer."

"It's rather queer you never asked him up here, Guy, but then I forgot—perhaps you had him here, while I was in New York with Aunt Mary."

"It's next to impossible to get him any further than the club," and Guy sighed in such a way that set Virginia thinking. She was going to help Guy—how or in what way she was not sure—but help him she must; so a few evenings later, when she was certain Guy was at an affair some miles distant, she called the clubhouse and asked for Mr. Jack Hamilton.

"Mr. Hamilton, will you come up to Mr. Tremont's house at once, please—it is very important—yes, 415 Longwood drive. Thank you."

"But, Virginia," urged her aunt, who was making her home temporarily with them, "Guy will be provoked with you."

"Now, aunt, you just let me attend to this 'Mr. Jack Hamilton.'"

"Aunt, there goes the bell—you must usher him in—please, aunt, just this once," and giving her aunt a gentle push toward the door, she flew into the sitting room, half tempted to fly from the house, and regretting at the last moment what she had done, but before she could move, aunt had ushered in "Mr. Jack Hamilton," and as she left the room, she failed to hear an exclamation from both Virginia and Jack at the same time.

"Why, Ma!—I can't believe it—it is—really you?" and Jack stood rooted to the spot.

"Ted Thompson, where did you come from—why, I thought—"

Virginia, unable to go on, just dropped into the nearest chair, and regarded Jack with questioning eyes, eyes that asked a thousand questions at once.

Jack recovered himself, and he, too, sat down, quite near Virginia. "Why did you run away like that, Ma!?" he asked tenderly. "I searched nearly all New York for you after that night."

Virginia burst out laughing, and cried happily: "Tell me, are you Ted Thompson, or Jack Hamilton, or do we both deceive one another, for I am Guy Tremont's sister, and when Helen Orr introduced us, I had warned her beforehand not to reveal my real name—just a whim of mine, and then when I found you really cared, Ted, I—"

"Yes, dear, it is Jack," he said smilingly.

"Well, I felt so mean for deceiving you regarding my name, that I just couldn't go on, and that last night at Helen's reception, I just had to run away from you because—"

"Well, Ma!—"

"Virginia," supplied Guy's sister, who now sat radiant with smiles.

"Virginia, I can't explain why I changed my name, but, like yourself, I suppose it was a whim of mine, and I had never given up the hope of finding you some day," he smiled.

After a talk that satisfied both of them, Virginia asked: "But, Jack, why have you been such a recluse? Poor Guy is nearly distracted."

"Nothing seemed to interest me after I lost you, but now I am going to come out of my shell to stay."

Some Pitchers Do Swear.

"They learned by watching Uble whether he was going to throw a curve or a fast one."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS

You will find the best bread in Butter Cup wrappers. 02-tf-c

Oscar Vibber, chief of police, was in Ithaca on business Friday.

Georgette blouses in newest shades at Robinson's for \$5.95.—adv.

William A. Bahkke, attorney, was in Grand Rapids on business Wednesday.

E. Frank MacCalum-Mhor is visiting with Bay City friends for a few days.

Charles G. Rhodes was in Grand Rapids on business the first of the week.

H. M. Crooks, president of Alma College, is in Detroit on business this week.

Dr. E. G. Sluyter, osteopathic physician, State Savings Bank Building, Alma, both phones. 57-tf

O. L. Smith of Ithaca, prosecuting attorney of Gratiot county, was in Alma on business Tuesday.

Blouses in Crepe de Chine and Georgette—all the newest suit shades at Robinson's for \$5.95.—adv.

They're in the window—those new wool jersey suits at Robinson's for Friday and Saturday only at \$10.95.

J. E. Koons of Lansing, former sheriff of Isabella county, was in the city on business the first of the week.

The Sewing Circle of Alma Hive No. 332 L. O. T. M. will meet with Mrs. Millie Perry on Wright avenue March 1st.

Money spent with us buys not only good coal but satisfaction and reliability as well. Brown-Ward Co., phone 27.—60tf.

Miss Florence Fleuty of Wingham, Ontario, Canada, is visiting her cousin, G. N. Biddon, and family during the week.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church will meet at the home of Mrs. Jotham Allen, 901 State street, Tuesday, March 1.

Jarvis Gage of M. A. C. spent the week-end with his sister Mrs. H. S. Babcock and family. He was accompanied by his room-mate, Mr. Eby Gault.

Miss Betty Grubb returned to her home in this city Monday after a three weeks' visit in Detroit, where she was a guest of Miss Frances McCormick.

Word has been received here of the death of the infant daughter of Mrs. Elmer Brooks of Ann Arbor. She will be remembered as Margaret Sharrar of this city.

The St. John's Guild will meet at the home of Mrs. Ed. Hannah, 426 State street, on Thursday afternoon, March 3. A pot luck lunch will be served. Come and bring a new member.

The Altar Society of St. Mary's church will meet Thursday, March 3, at the home of Mrs. Harry Ball, on Moyer street. This will be an interesting meeting as Mrs. John Barry will talk on "Irish History." Miss Mary McLaughlin on the "Life of St. Patrick." Mrs. Maud Gorman on "Our New President and His Cabinet." There will be a general discussion on "points of interest in our city charter." All ladies of the parish are urged to be present.

Special evangelistic services will be held at the Baptist church every night during the week at 7:30 beginning Sunday. Rev. J. J. Pease of Bay City will preach. Mrs. Pease will assist in special meetings for women and children. L. R. May will direct the chorus, congregation singing and special music. Special services will be held every afternoon at 1:30, excepting Monday and Sunday. Complete announcement of the program will be made at the Sunday services.

WHITESIDE FRIDAY

"The Master of Ballantrae" at The Strand Friday Evening.

Walker Whiteside will present his latest dramatic success at the Strand theater Friday night, Robert Louis Stevenson's masterpiece of romance, "The Master of Ballantrae."

The star will appear in the role of James Durie, a handsome young scamp, who has roamed the world in search of excitement. He returns to Castle Durrie in Scotland after an absence of ten years, and makes known his immediate need of gold with which to pursue his fast life in Paris. As it is not forthcoming, the rogue adopts his own methods of getting it, and for three acts plot and counterplot, wit and laughter; tantalizing mystery and much villainy absorb the attention of all beholders. In the character of James Durie, Walker Whiteside is said to have one of the most fascinating roles of his long and successful career. It permits him to appear in his own natural visage; wear handsome costumes; to indulge in much elegant swagger, imported from the occasion from the fast French court in Paris; and to make love in a manner which never fails to win the hearts of the women, and compel the admiration of the men.

A splendid New York company will be seen in Mr. Whiteside's support. Included in the list of celebrities will be found Alexander Frank, W. Wayne Lynton, Maurice Barrett, Basil West, James Macne, Karl Voss, Miss Sydney Shields, Miss Voss, Miss Sydney Shields, Nancy Stewart and Virginia Duncan. A superb scenic investiture will occupy the stage at this performance, which depicts the interior of the massive hall in Castle Durrie on the Ballantrae estate in Scotland.

The business at the Davis' Beauty Parlor has increased to that extent that Mrs. Winifred Allen has found it necessary to engage an assistant. This will of course aid in caring for the customers more rapidly, so make your appointments early. Phone 568.—adv.

MET MONDAY

The Alma Delphian Society met Monday evening, February 14, at the home of Mrs. E. Hannah, president, on State street. Following the business meeting, the literary program was carried out with Mrs. Hannah as director in the absence of the regular chairman. Early Roman plays and their authors was the general topic of the meeting, discussions on various phases of this topic being given by Mrs. P. W. Cresser, Mrs. Wise and Mrs. E. Hannah. This was followed by the reading of a very interesting paper on civic possibilities by Mrs. Soper. An open discussion of the paper followed. The next meeting of the society will be held February 28th at the home of Mrs. Hannah, 426 State street.

DANA RETURNS

C. J. Dana, Holland Furnace Company branch manager for this vicinity, who returned recently from the service and sales school at the company's general offices at Holland, Michigan, makes an interesting report of conditions as the various branch managers find them throughout the central west. Mr. Dana's report in part follows: "One of the most encouraging signs for the future, as our company views it, is the almost unprecedented interest in better living conditions—in cheerier, cozier homes. As a basis for hopefulness the good home is looked upon as the stabilizer or balance-wheel of the nation, and what could better signify the progress of humanity than the home?"

SOUTH HIGH WINS

The Grand Rapids South High debating team won a verdict over the Alma High debaters Friday evening on the question, "Resolved that the adjustment of disputes between employers and employees should be made a part of the administration of justice." South High's trio took the negative side of the question and the local team upheld the affirmative. Both teams displayed a good knowledge of the question, but there was every evidence that the Furniture City forensic artists had a much better knowledge of the subject than the local team members. Elliott Crooks, Phil Lewis and John Holmes composed the Alma team.

MEET INDIANS

The high school team will tackle the Mt. Pleasant Indians Saturday evening on the local floor as a preliminary to the Michigan State Normal-Alma College game, which the Teachers must win to cap the 1921 association title. "Chief" Nevitt is coaching the Indian school quintet and is reported to have a strong aggregation. The clever Redskin coach would like nothing better than to trim Alma and has his team all primed to meet the local high five Saturday night. Mullin's aggregation is expected to be in fine shape for the fray and a fine basket ball game is in prospect.

OBITUARY

Mr. Little Tinkham of Saginaw died February 22nd at four o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Medler of Forest Hill, Mich. He was born in the state of Ohio in 1841. In 1864 was married to Isabelle Bradner who died January 16, 1912. To that union were born three children all of whom have preceded him to the great beyond. He was again married to Mrs. Elma Lewis of Kalamazoo, Mich., who mourns his loss with one grandson, Ralph Tinkham, of California.

DISCONTINUE RECRUITING

Sergeant Marsh of the Alma recruiting office has received orders to discontinue recruiting activities of every character and to take necessary action to cancel all leases at the earliest possible date. It is probable that Sergeant Marsh will be recalled to the Grand Rapids recruiting office very shortly.

FIRE AT HOSPITAL

The fire department was called to Carney hospital Sunday afternoon by a small roof blaze, which had evidently started from sparks from the chimney. The fire was extinguished with a very small loss by the use of chemicals. A new fire-proof roof is being constructed this week.

WAS A BIG SUCCESS

The annual firemen's ball held at the Michigan Masonic Home Tuesday evening was a better success than any similar event that the Alma firemen have held in past years, nearly 150 couples attending the dance. Music was furnished by Olmstead's Republic orchestra.

COW SELLS FOR \$500

Saturday morning R. D. Bradford of the Bradford Dairy sold a five-year-old Guernsey to H. W. Wiggman of Lansing for \$500, one of the best prices that has been received for a cow in Gratiot in some time. He also sold two Guernsey heifers to Mr. Wiggman.

A Good Medicine for the Grip.

George W. Waitt, South Gardiner, Me., relates his experience with the grip. "I had the worst cough, cold and grip and had taken a lot of trash of no account. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the only thing that has done me any good whatever. I have used one bottle of it and the cold and grip have left me."—85-4.

You have decided to buy only at a grocery that will handle Butter-Nut bread and find that they occasionally send out other bread, well that is because Butter-Nut sells well and your grocer having run short is compelled to substitute until he can get another supply of fresh Butter-Nut bread from the bakery. 86-4

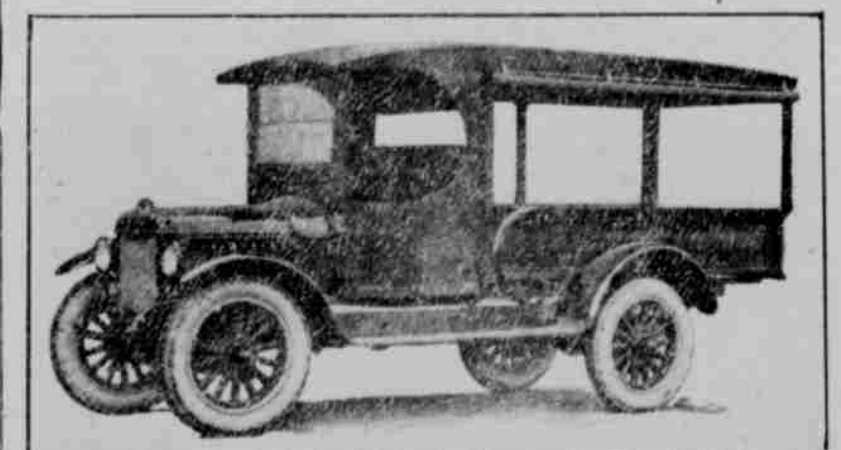
MICKIE SAYS

TH BOSS SAYS IT USTA BE TH' FASHION T' RUN 'READ TH' ADS' LINES IN TH' PAPER—BUT HE RECKONS IF TH' ADS GUT ANY MORE INTERESTING, HE'LL HAF TA START ASKIN' FOLKS T' READ TH' NEWS!



Republic "10-Express" Makes Appearance

Superb One-Ton Model on Pneumatic Tires



Republic Motor Truck Co. Inc., of Alma, Michigan, announces its new Model 10 Express, a one-ton truck on pneumatic tires. This Model is of exceptional proportions, and particularly attractive in appearance. It fills a distinct need in the truck field as it is not of passenger car derivation, but built of proven truck units to meet the demand for a delivery truck of heavier construction, and greater sturdiness, than the average truck of its capacity, yet possessing ample speed for city use and inter-urban service.

Republic Model 10 Express is equipped with Continental Red Seal motor, and its transmission is fitted with an unusually low gear ratio in low speed, assuring ample power for starting loads under adverse conditions. The famous Republic-Torben internal gear drive rear axle is used, the gear reduction in the axle being designed so that maximum truck speed is obtained without racing the motor.

35 x 6 pneumatic cord tires, front and rear, are standard equipment on this Model. The tires are of heavy truck type, their extra size

assuring not only maximum tire mileage, but ability to safely carry full capacity loads under all conditions. The fact that 35 x 6 tires are used throughout, makes it necessary for the owner to carry only one spare tire and rim for emergencies.

Republic Model 10 Express is equipped with Delco electric lighting system, the generator being driven direct from the front gear case of motor, no chains being used. Delco electric starting motor is extra equipment at nominal additional cost. Ignition in Republic Model 10 Express is obtained by high tension Bosch Magneto, entirely independent of the electric lighting system.

The Model is furnished with two styles of express body, either open or canopy-top, an extra tire carrier and rim being included with both styles. The truck is also fitted with full length running boards, connecting front and rear crown fenders. Complete curtain protection is furnished with the enclosed cab and with the canopy top express body. The cab also includes a two-piece adjustable windshield and is fitted with removable side curtains which open with the doors.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is a favorite with the mothers of small children for colds, croup and whooping cough. Its pleasant taste and the prompt cures which it effects has won the good opinion of mothers everywhere. As this remedy contains no opium or other narcotic it may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult.—85-4w.

Read all the ads—it pays.

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